

CLAIMS: IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 11 JAN 2006

1. A toothbrush (1) with a brush head (2), wherein bristle clusters (11-17) protrude from the surface (10) of this brush head that lies on the cleaning side, with at least one bristle cluster (11) being surrounded by an annular depression (21) in the surface (10), and with the depression (21) having a bottom (22), into which the bristle cluster (11) penetrates and in which said bristle cluster is fixed.

2. The toothbrush according to Claim 1,
characterized in
that the annular depression (21) is essentially adapted to the cross section of the bristle cluster (11).

3. The toothbrush according to Claim 2,
characterized in
that the annular depression (21) and the cross section of the bristle cluster (11) are essentially realized in a rectangular fashion.

4. The toothbrush according to Claim 1, wherein a handle (3) connected to one end of the brush head (2) and the brush head (2) have a common longitudinal direction (4),
characterized in

that the longer side walls (23, 24) of the rectangle extend transverse to the longitudinal axis (4) of the brush head (2).

5. The toothbrush according to Claim 4,

characterized in

that the annular depressions (21) extend along the edge (18) of the brush head (2).

6. The toothbrush according to Claim 5,

characterized in

that the annular depressions (21) are tapered off toward the edge (26).

7. The toothbrush according to Claim 5 or 6,

characterized in

that another bristle cluster (12) protrudes between two annular depressions (21) with bristle clusters (11) protruding therefrom.

8. The toothbrush according to Claim 7,

characterized in

that the additional bristle cluster (12) has a rectangular cross section, the longer side (d) of which extends transverse to the longitudinal direction (4) of the handle (3) and of the brush head (2).

9. The toothbrush according to Claim 7,

characterized in

that the annular depressions (21) with the bristle clusters (11) protruding therefrom are arranged in the edge region (18) of the brush head (2).

10. The toothbrush according to Claim 9,

characterized in

that four annular depressions (21) with one bristle cluster (11) protruding from each depression (21) are respectively arranged in the edge region (18) on both sides of the brush head (2).

11. The toothbrush according to Claim 7,

characterized in

that the bristle clusters (11) protruding from the annular depressions (21) have a greater length (L1) than the adjacent bristle cluster (12).

12. The toothbrush according to Claim 9,

characterized in

that the brush head (2) is centrally divided in the longitudinal direction (4) by a slot (7) that originates at the point (30), and in that the slot (7) ends at the transition to the handle (3).

13. The toothbrush according to Claim 3, wherein the brush head consists of a round brush head that is able carry out an oscillating rotational movement,

characterized in

that the longer side walls of the annular depression and of the bristle cluster protruding therefrom essentially extend in the circumferential direction of the round head and at a constant distance from the edge of the round head.

14. The toothbrush according to Claim 13,

characterized in

that several annular depressions extend a short distance from the edge of the brush head.

15. The toothbrush according to Claim 14,

characterized in

that the annular depressions are outwardly tapered off in the radial direction.

16. The toothbrush according to Claim 15,

characterized in

that another bristle cluster protrudes between two annular depressions with bristle clusters protruding therefrom.

17. The toothbrush according to Claim 16,

characterized in

that the additional bristle cluster has a rectangular cross section, the longer side of which extends in the circumferential direction of the brush head and at the same distance from the edge.

18. The toothbrush according to Claim 13,

characterized in

that the bristle clusters protruding from the annular depressions have a greater length than those of the adjacent bristle clusters.